

## BABY READS LATIN

LITTLE WICHITA BOY SURPRISES  
PARENTS AND FRIENDS.

Reads English and Latin when Only Three Years Old—Plays Grocery Keeper with Other Children and Makes out a Correct Bill of Goods which He Pretends to Sell—Writes His Name and Address for the Eagle. "Richmond Bann, 312 New York Avenue—The Mother Talks of Her Remarkable Child—Millionaire's Offer.

Probably the most remarkable boy or baby in the world lives in Wichita. His name is Richmond Bann, and he was four years old October 14th, last.

He is a natural reader, and he reads the newspapers, books and periodicals, and his parents do not know when he learned to read.

When little Richmond was 3-years-old he came across the word *popolo* in large letters in a paper, and he asked his father what that was, and Edward Bann, who is a lumber dealer, and lives on New York Avenue, between Second and Third streets, correctly spelled the word *popolo* and pronounced it for the baby. Two or three days after that Mrs. Bann was surprised to hear little Richmond spell and properly pronounce the word.

Upon investigation it was discovered that he could spell and pronounce other words. It was also found that when he saw a word in print and heard it pronounced that he would find it ever forgot it. And the first thing the parents knew the child was reading in the papers and books that he found about the house.

When the grocer left a bill at the home little Richmond would not be satisfied until he knew what it said, and one day the little boy, a mere babe less than 4-years-old, was playing with the larger children. Little Richmond was calling himself the grocer and he had little bits of paper which he would deliver to the other children, calling one a package of coffee, another sugar, another bran and corn.

There was nothing remarkable in the child imitating the grocer, but the mother, through curiosity, examined one of the bills which little Richmond left with his packages of mud and was dumfounded to find that the child had written properly the names of the different articles. Set opposite each a price and then had properly footed up the column of figures. Other bills made out by the child were examined and they were nearly all correct.

This remarkable child can read Latin as well as English after he has once heard it pronounced to him. He is not an unerring imitator like Blind Tom in reading music, but he makes just mistakes enough and sometimes corrects them to show that he thinks.

A reporter for the Eagle saw this remarkable child at his father's, Mr. Allen's real estate office, on Market street yesterday, and after Mr. Allen had related some of the boy's wonderful performances, the reporter asked him: "What is your name, young man?"

His father handed him a card and he said: "Give the gentleman your card, Richmond." He uttered a bold, legible name: "Richmond Bann, 312 New York Avenue."

"Richmond, can you sell me some groceries and feed the dog?" asked the reporter. The boy's father, who gave him a head a quick nod. Then the reporter told him that he wanted 50 cents worth of coffee, 60 cents worth of sugar, 30 cents worth of starch, 70 cents worth of bran and 40 cents worth of corn meal. Then little Richmond took a pencil and wrote down the articles and based over his bill to the reporter as follows:

Coffee..... 50  
Sugar..... 60  
Starch..... 70  
Bran..... 40  
Chop..... 40

Then Mr. Allen told him to multiply 123456 by 6. He put down the figures and performed the operation correctly, after which the reporter asked him if he could read the Eagle, and Richmond said he could. Taking the Eagle out of his pocket, the reporter said: "You are a nice little boy, now read this paragraph."

"It is hoped that if Mr. Otney ever has occasion to demand an apology from Spain, he will have sense enough to enclose a stamp for reply."

"Now this one:"

During the last hours of the Kentucky convention a man arose and swore a blue streak at the chairman. The convention then adjourned and left the acoustic properties of the hall to convalesce.

"Now here is an editorial, let me hear you read the first paragraph."

"If there is one poor soul who still harbors in his mind the idea of an international conference on the financial matter, he should dispel the illusion and try to get his mentality into working order."

He read each paragraph, pronouncing the syllables very distinctly, but when he came to the word "illusion," it was divided at the end of a line, and he pronounced it. Illusion, but he stopped and after looking at the word slowly, pronounced it correctly.

Richmond Bann seems to be a born genius, and he has the faculty of remembering nearly every word he sees in print. It seems remarkable to see a 4-year-old child reading the newspapers and Dickens works, but that is just what this little Wichita boy can do. He is very fond of the newspapers and especially David Copperfield.

This boy who may become one of the greatest scholars of his age is rather shorter than children of his age, but muscular little fellow. He has a light complexion, and blue eyes, and a very long head. At the end of his head is a semi circle from the lower part of the forehead to the base of the back of the head, the highest part of the semi-circle being directly over the ears. He is inclined to be rather serious for a child of his age, and most of his childish plays are such as require thought. His blue eyes look kindly and intelligent, and he seems more inclined to listen to others and reflect than to talk.

In order to learn something more about this little boy that may attract the attention of the wise men of earth, a reporter called at the Bann residence on New York Avenue, and a knock on the door was answered by the mother of Richmond Bann.

"I am a reporter for the Eagle and came to find out more about your remarkable boy."

"Well, he is now down town with his father."

"Is he a healthy child?"

"Oh, yes; he has never been much sick and he is a very strong child for one of his size."

"When did he learn to read?"

"Oh, I hardly know; he has been reading ever since he was 3-years-old. He seemed to have learned to read so quickly that we did not know how he learned. I suppose that he picked up

At this season

Something is needed to keep up the appetite, assist digestion and give good, healthful sleep. For these purposes Hood's Sarsaparilla is peculiarly adapted. As a blood

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**

purifier it has no equal, and it is chiefly by its power to make pure blood that it has won such fame as a cure for scrofula, salt rheum, boils and other similar diseases.

Hood's Pills are efficient and gentle. Do.

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They were First Attacked by Mosquitoes as Big as Mocking Birds, then a Storm Came on Them which Gave Them a Tired Feeling and After that Lightning Struck Their Ship and Broke a Mast—The Boiler Didn't do a Thing but Blow up and Render Them Helpless—Saw at Last.

Mrs. M. A. McFarren has received the first news of her son's stormy experience in the Gulf of Mexico. Her son is George McFarren, who until recently lived in this city, and is generally known. Nothing serious happened. In his letter to Mrs. McFarren he says that they had plenty to eat and that comforts of the vessel were everything that could be desired. Of the storm he says:

We left here (New Orleans) at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, June 1st, the ship's engine having been overhauled, and supposed to have been in good condition. It was a nice ride down the river until about dusk, when they stopped her to tighten up some of the new bolts which had worked a little loose, and there we were completely overwhelmed with mosquitoes, not the kind you have up here, but the kind that come in swarms, some of the crew called them "buzzards" and "mocking birds."

You could not brush or drive them off; just had to take hold of them and screw them and throw them overboard. Our party composed of Mrs. McFarren, Mr. Mott, Allie, Julia and myself, and being joined here by a Dr. Chalmers, who was going down there as a representative of the quarantine board here. All went on the "bridge" with the captain and we crossed the bar into the gulf, about midnight. There was so much breeze up there that the mosquitoes did not trouble us so badly, and after we got out into the sea breeze they all deserted the ship, and there was nothing further to prevent our retreating with "that tired feeling" which seems to become so natural to everyone upon starting out on a sea voyage.

The ladies and Julia went to their state rooms, and we got out on the sea breeze benches in the cabin, or on our blankets up on deck when the weather would permit.

We had heavy seas and high winds from the time we left the river and how that little ship pitched and tossed about was enough to make anybody sea sick and weary. It was my fifth trip over and the first time I have been in the least sick. We all had it this time sure, and as poor little Julia would say, "Oh how it comes," and "Well we all have to feel the fish, don't we papa?" "Now give me some more ham."

The first thing we all felt so "tired" that we did not care to sit up, eat or anything, just wanted to be let severely alone. After that, however, none of us were sick at all, and all seemed to eat with "a coming appetite," and the way we all made things vanish was a pleasure as well as a seeming pleasure to the captain, after our previous fast of three days.

By this time we struck a severe thunder storm, and the sea was so rough that the vessel was so strained on the machinery that it blew out the cylinder head of the high pressure engine. Although we were out on the sea breeze for two days, then, our log showed that we ought to have been within 175 miles of our destination, but a heavy head wind blowing and also the great stream against us. We all went to work and made a new cylinder head out of wood and in three days we were back on the high pressure engine and we managed to run the low pressure alone, but that head only lasted a few moments, and it gave out. Then they set to work to make another and better one, and which worked so well that we were enabled to keep up our pace and run at 3 or 4 knots until we got back to port again. Of course we did not know how long it would last nor how long it would take to get to our destination, and then they set to work to make another and better one, and which worked so well that we were enabled to keep up our pace and run at 3 or 4 knots until we got back to port again.

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